

Floor Statement of Rep. Ben Ray Lujan
Safe Climate Caucus
February 27, 2013

Thank you, Madam Speaker. In recent years we have seen an increase in major weather events, especially in the continental United States. From record-setting super storms to severe droughts and devastating wildfires, the recent impacts of climate change cannot be ignored. In my home state of New Mexico, ranchers and farmers are struggling to maintain their livelihoods in the face of drought conditions, while, last year, wildfires threatened communities that have still not fully recovered.

A rapidly changing climate affects everyone on the planet. Climate change impacts agriculture, water supplies, power and transportation systems, and even our health and public safety.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and one of the worst wildfire seasons in the Western United States that we have ever seen, it's time to work together on commonsense solutions that will allow us to use power

in a smarter manner, produce clean and abundant renewable energy, and reduce emissions through energy efficiency.

These are things we should be able to agree on and work together on in a bipartisan manner. It is critical that we move forward with a sense of urgency and take meaningful action that addresses the very real threats of climate change that are already impacting our country.